

LETTER FROM THE HONORABLE JOSEPH HOWE

IN REPLY TO MR. ANNAND.

To the Electors of the County of Hants.

MEN OF HANTS.—

Mr. Annand, who for six or eight months has had two newspapers under his control, abusing me, and everybody else who stood in the way of his interest and ambition, is at last beginning to realize the fact that "the way of the transgressor is hard." The *Citizen* is itself again — Mr. McDonald's pen is free, and other writers, who represent largely the intellect and energy of the great party who opposed Confederation so long as Repeal was possible, are beginning to laugh at his pretensions and expose the fallacy of his arguments. Day by day he is put upon his defence, and stung by the scathing exposure of "Bright," and the playful satire of "Laertes," I do not wonder that my last letter to you has tried his temper severely.

I have just got back to Windsor, and, surrounded by many and pressing engagements, have not much leisure to bestow upon the savage epistle which covers half a page of *Saturday's Chronicle*. Mr. Annand is very indignant at the liberties taken with the five or six gentlemen who have been scouring this county for weeks, taking all manner of liberties with me. What else could they expect? What else do they deserve? If Mr. Jones and Mr. Goudge rush about, charging me with a change of opinion, and trying to make the people of Hants believe that they can get the Union Act repealed, is it not legitimate for me to prove that Mr. Jones never was and is not now a Repealer, and that Mr. Goudge, only a year or two ago, was an ardent Confederate?

But since my letter was written, another startling fact has come to the surface. On the morning of the meeting at Elmsdale, I was informed that Mr. Goudge, while a Confederate, had actually urged a gentleman, then a Member of the House, to vote for the resolutions brought in by Dr. Tupper at Mr. Miller's instance, which led to the English convention, and the passage of the Act of Union. I referred to this report on the platform. Mr. Goudge instantly pronounced it false, when the gentleman stepped from the crowd, confronted Goudge before the whole audience, declared the statement true, gave time and place, and offered to verify the charge by affidavit.

Are facts like these to be covered up for fear Mr. Annand shall be angry? Shall a person who used his influence to get the Union Act passed, be suffered, with impunity, to abuse the man who labored for nearly a year to prevent its passage, and for another year to obtain its repeal? I think not.

Mr. Annand does not venture to deny that Troop, while on a public mission, obtained a Railway directorship, and he almost admits that \$2,000 worth of stock, to qualify him, was given out of pure regard for his public virtues and the general good. But then he tries to shelter his colleague under the garbines of three or four other gentlemen, who, he says, are directors of the company, and were probably treated with equal generosity. Surely Mr. Annand is not such an ass as not to see the wide distinction that every man of sense will draw between the independent action of gentlemen having

nothing to do with the Government, and the base prostitution of his position, by a member of the Executive Council, sworn to protect the interests of the country and the honor of the Crown. The attempt to mystify us by drawing a distinction between the company and the contractors will not be more successful. Every body knows that, from the first, this has been what is called a contractors' road—the men who signed the original agreement, finding the money, organizing the company, selling the stock, sub-letting the work, and managing the whole affair. What did these people want of a member of the Executive Council, if there were no axes to grind, no questions of delinquency and importance to be adjusted by the Government? Does Mr. Annand wish the shrewd men of Hants to believe that these sharp Englishmen crammed Troop's pockets with scrip out of sheer admiration of his virtues?

But Mr. Annand seems to have got his head in such a muddle as to be incapable of drawing any distinctions.

A gentleman, who I had met in England, came out to establish branches of a London Insurance Company in the colonies. One was organized in Halifax, and I and four or five other gentlemen became directors of it. The business was carried on for two years by a paid agent, the directors serving gratuitously. It was finally wound up, all losses paid, and nobody cheated. Yet Mr. Annand cannot see the difference between an affair of this kind, and the Amalgamating Gold Company, of which he was one of the original promoters, and managing directors, with a salary of £500 a year, and which he managed until certain simple people in England were cheated out of £50,000.

Annand has covered a column with absurd references to what he would have you believe were mysterious and strange doings in England, the object being to show that, while there, Dr. Tupper and I were playing into each others hands. Nobody knows better than Mr. Annand that all this is a baseless and wicked falsehood. Though Dr. Tupper and I differed widely on the subject of Confederation, we fought the battle to the bitter end without any personal quarrel. We met on eight or ten platforms in Cumberland, and debated for as many long summer days, treating each other with all the courtesies of civilized warfare. We encountered each other for four nights in the Ottawa Parliament, trying every joint of each others armour, yet illustrating the good manners of our country, while doing our best to overthrow each others arguments. We mingled freely in society, yet nobody supposed that we were in danger of becoming converts to each others opinions. While in England we were guests of the Duke of Buckingham for two or three days, met at other tables once or twice, and occasionally, in the corridors or lobbies of the Parliament House saw each other when the debates upon our Petition were coming on. On some of these occasions, as was most natural, we discussed, in all its bearings, the question which had brought us to England; and, on others, we chaffed and bantered each other as public men, holding

opposite opinions, are apt to do. Both of us, I assume, fenced skillfully, when we happened to meet, each desiring to give as little and to get as much information as he could. I had no hope of making a convert of the Doctor, and, having for two years encountered him in fair fight at home, I was not much afraid to meet and chaff with him in England.

Our lines of action there were directly opposite, and each worked on his own line with zeal proportionate to the sincerity of his convictions. Each had the same kind of work to do. I labored to convince the Secretary and Under Secretary of State, to influence the public mind through the Press, to canvass and instruct members of Parliament. Dr. Tupper did the same, and nothing was more natural for him than to call on Mr. Bright and Lord Stratheden, who he knew were to present our petition. That he did this, and that he argued the case, from his own standpoint, with his accustomed ingenuity and skill, I have not a shadow of a doubt. That he would assume in these conversations, that if Her Majesty's Government decided against us, that we would have no other resource than to submit, or negotiate with the Canadians, is more than probable. Whatever he said or assumed, the Dr. had no warrant or authority from me, as Mr. Annand, who came to me in a state of great frustration one day, was assured. Just as I was going out of town, he or Troop, or both of them, came to me again, and renewed the subject. I was in some haste, may have showed some temper, but sat down, and wrote to Lord Stratheden a clear and explicit disclaimer of responsibility for anything that Dr. Tupper might say or do. This note was shown to my colleagues, who declared it entirely satisfactory, and yet, nine months after, Mr. Annand takes up this simple transaction, which any gentleman in five minutes will understand, in order to give color to the wretched slanders and suspicions out of which he has been trying for months to manufacture another Delegation.

That Dr. Tupper knew, or could have known, what course I would pursue when I returned home, was simply impossible, because I did not know myself. My letter to Robertson shows the state of my mind before leaving England, and the earnestness with which I was clinging to the hope that a Union of the Maritime Provinces was possible. That hope was not dissipated till we returned home, and then, when satisfied that the Local Government would not stop the machine, or risk their salaries in one determined effort more for the deliverance of our country, I knew Repeal was hopeless, and turned my thoughts to the only department of practical politics that lay before me. Annand has screamed Repeal for nine months, and what has he achieved? Nothing! I and Mr. McLeish have, at all events, got something to show for our labor, having rescued our people from direct taxation, and received £40,000 to keep up their roads and bridges.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

JOSEPH HOWE.